

To be able to understand the start of the police force.

Must: I can use images to help me pick out key information.

Should: I can use dates and technical vocabulary to explain the work of the Victorian Police Force.

Could: I can share my thoughts and opinions on the work of the Victorian Police force.

Great Britain and the Law

In Tudor Times it was the Monarchy that passed the laws, with agreement from the church and governors to the throne.

This meant that some silly laws were passed, allowing monarchy to do pretty much whatever they wanted.

This had to stop.

This happened around the Victorian Period.

Sir Robert Peel

In Britain today all policemen are commonly referred to as 'Bobbies'! Originally though, they were known as 'Peelers' in reference to Sir Robert Peel (1788 - 1850).

The British police force was founded in the Victorian era, by a man named Sir Robert Peel.



The Police Force

The first thousand of Peel's police, dressed in blue tail-coats and top hats, began to patrol the streets of London on 29th September 1829. The uniform was carefully selected to make the 'Peelers' look more like ordinary citizens, rather than a red-coated soldier with a helmet.



Equipment

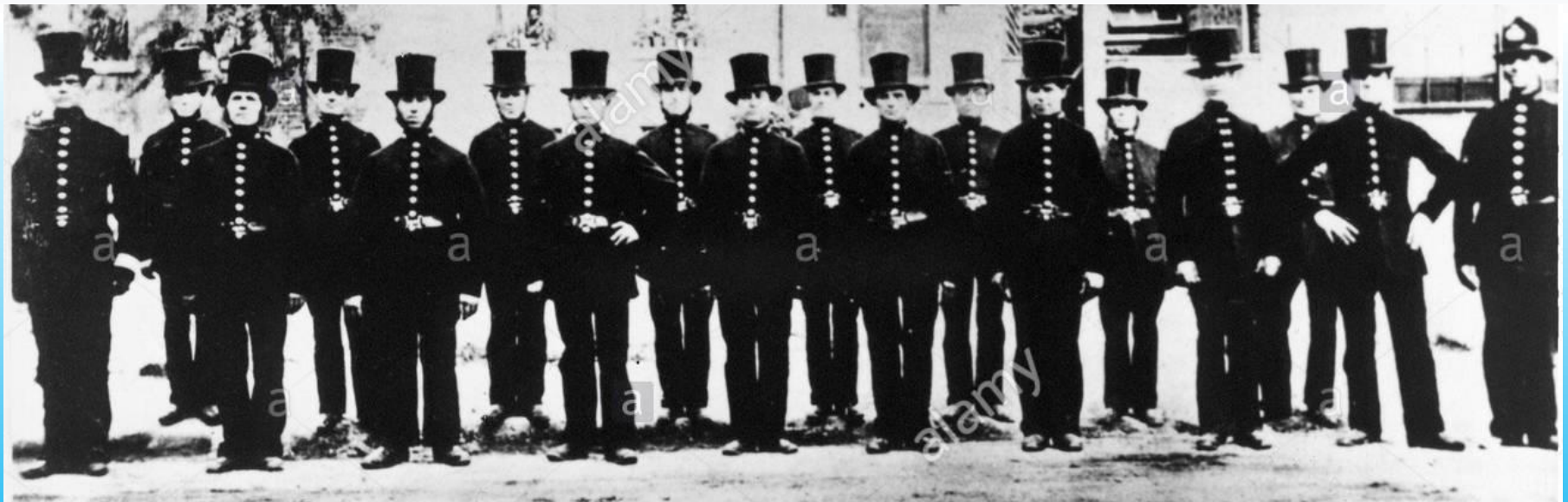
The 'Peelers' were issued with a wooden truncheon carried in a long pocket in the tail of their coat, a pair of handcuffs and a wooden rattle to raise the alarm.

By the 1880s this rattle had been replaced by a whistle.



Requirements

To be a 'Peeler' the rules were quite strict. You had to be aged 20 - 27, at least 5' 7" tall (or as near as possible), fit and healthy, literate and have no history of any wrong-doings.



Set an example

These men became the model for the creation of all the provincial forces; at first in the London Boroughs, and then into the counties and towns, after the passing of the County Police Act in 1839

Hours and Pay

Early Victorian police worked seven days a week, with only five days unpaid holiday a year.

They received the grand sum of £1 per week.

Their lives were strictly controlled; they were not allowed to vote in elections and required permission to get married.



Victorian London and the Police Force

Due to the rise in crime in London, the police force became very restricted. It was decided the best thing to do was to create two forces.

One was known as the Metropolitan Police service and the City of London Police force.

Smaller counties had laws and rules made by the church and councils.

The police force was then spread to all major cities and towns.

Today's Police Force

What is similar?
What different?



Your Task

Using the key facts create a double page info sheet on the Victorian Police force.

Who was Sir Robert Peel?

How was the police force established?

What were some of the rules?

How much did they get paid?

What did they wear?

What did they use to help them?

Challenge Task: What are the key similarities and differences to the modern day police?